

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 08848 091344Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 091325Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6303

S E C R E T CAIRO 8848

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG SY

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN RELATIONS

1. DURING MY LONG MEETING WITH FAHMY TODAY, HE REFERRED TO THE ATTACK OF A DAY OR TWO AGO ON THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN DAMASCUS. HE HAD SENT INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS EMBASSY IN DAMASCUS TO CONTACT AYYUBI OR KHADDAM IMMEDIATELY, PREFERABLY AYYUBI, TO WARN THAT IF THIS KIND OF THING CONTINUES, GOE WILL ARRANGE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SYRIAN EMBASSY IN CAIRO. THE ATTACK ON THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN DAMSCUS, ACCORDING TO GOE INFORMATION, WAS PERPETRATED BY 100-150 MEMBERS OF RIFAAT ASSAD'S SPECIAL FORCES, BUT WEARING CIVILIAN DRESS. THE SYRIAN AUTHORITIES HAD WARNED THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR THAT A DEMONSTRATION WAS PLANNED, BUT LATER CLAIMED THAT THE RIOTERS HAD AVOIDED THE POLICE CORDON BY ENTERING THE PREMISES FROM THE BACK.

2. FAHMY HAS ALSO INSTRUCTED HIS AMBASSADOR TO GIVE THE SYRIANS AN "ULTIMATUM" THAT THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN DAMASCUS WILL BE WITHDRAWN IF PRESENT SYRIAN ANTI-EGYPTIAN ACTIVITIES DO NOT STOP AND IF THERE ARE ANY MORE ATTACKS ON EGYPTIAN PROPERTY OR CITIZENS.
EILTS

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, HARASSMENT, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO08848
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850081-2285, N750004-0200
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750967/aaaachmt.tel
Line Count: 52
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 DEC 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, EG, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006